platform. However, the job was completed in only 13 days *i.e.* from 02.01.2008 till 14.01.2008. During the shutdown period, Gas production of about 13 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) was curtailed from Bassein field.

(b) Due to shutdown, supply of gas from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to Gail (India) Limited (GAIL)'s processing/LPG plants along Hazira Vijaypur Jagdishpur (HVJ) Pipeline fell from normal average of 2.2 MMSCMD to 1.2 MMSCMD. However this shortfall was met through market priced gas. Hence, there was no impact on Liquefield Petroleum Gas (LPG) production in GAIL plants along HVJ pipeline.

(c) and (d) Shutdowns at Platforms are common with Offshore Oil and Gas Industry internationally. However, the duration of shutdown depends on the quantum and type works involved.

Phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products

3800. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the under-recovery of the PSU oil companies on account of subsidy on petroleum products has now crossed the mark of Rs. 71,800 crores;

(b) whether the oil marketing companies bear a share of 8.5 per cent of such under-recoveries, with almost 52 per cent met from the issue of oil bonds; and

(c) the steps being taken to phase out subsidies in phases to reduce the debt burden of oil bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) International oil prices have been on a consistent up-trend since 2003-04. The steep increase in international oil prices is having a major impact on the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) The total gross under-recoveries of the OMCs on the sale of sensitive petroleum products *i.e.* Petrol Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG for the year 2007-08 are estimated to be approximately Rs. 77,303 crore.

(b) The burden of under-recoveries shared by the Government, Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies and OMCs during 2006-07 was as under:

		2006-07	
Sl. No.		Rs. crore	%
1	Reduction in under-recoveries due to price increase in Petrol and Diesel during the year	7,119	12.60
2	Amount borne by Upstream Oil Companies	20,507	36.30
3	Amount borne by Government through issue of Oil Bonds	24,121	42,70
4	Amount absorbed by OMCs	4,759	8.40
	Total under-recoveries of OMCs	56,506	100.00

(c) The provision of subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG has been made by the Government to protect the interests of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. Government has extended the existing subsidy scheme "PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme 2002" and Freight Subsidy (For Far-Flung Areas) Scheme 2002 upto 31st March, 2010.

To reduce the debt burden of Oil Bonds, Government has rationalized taxes & duties on petroleum products, besides streamlining the delivery system of PDS Kerosene for better targetting of the subsidy and to plug leakages, encouraging the use of Bio-fuels, etc.

Loss to ONGC

†3801. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has suffered a loss of about Rs. 235 crores recently due to arbitrariness of the officers and wrong decisions;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any action against the officers who are responsible for this loss;

(c) if so, whether Government is formulating any effective scheme to check recurrence of the same; and

(d) *if so, the details thereof?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Officer of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in their report No. 11 of 2007 concerning Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have reported that delay in award of contract by ONGC resulted in re-tendering and award of the contract at a cost higher by Rs. 235.51 crore.

Reply to ONGC on the audit report has been obtained and a reply has been sent to the office of C&AG.

Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

3802. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of petroleum and Natural Gas in India;

(b) the total production of Petroleum and Natural gas from the oil & gas fields abroad, by our Government companies; and

(c) what is our total demand; and the steps taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The total crude oil and natural gas production during the year 2007-08 was 34.106 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 32,405 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively.

(b) The total overseas production of crude oil & Gas by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) during the year 2007-08 was 6.832 MMT and 1.928 BCM respectively.

(c) The total consumption of petroleum and gas during 2007-08 (Apr.-Feb.) was 116.7 MMT and 38512 Million Metric Square Cubic Meter (MMSCM) respectively.

The steps taken to meet the demand-supply gap are as follows:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.